



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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US BORDER PATROL AGENT INDICTED

PHOENIX, ARIZONA -- The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona announced that on August 14, 2002 a federal grand jury at Tucson, Arizona, returned a two count indictment against Javier Acosta D.O.B. 01-04-64 of Tucson, Arizona, charging Acosta with violating Title 18 of the United States Code, Sections 242 and 1512.

The indictment alleges Acosta violated the civil rights of Francisco Avilez Romero by assaulting him during the course of an arrest while Acosta was on duty as a United States Border Patrol Agent. Count 2 of the indictment alleges that Acosta then persuaded Romero to hinder, delay, and prevent the reporting of Count 1 to law enforcement.

If convicted of Count 1, Acosta faces a maximum penalty of ten years imprisonment and/or a fine of 250,000 dollars. The same penalties apply if Acosta is convicted of Count 2.

An indictment is simply the method by which a person is charged with criminal activity and raises no inference of guilt. An individual is presumed innocent until competent evidence is presented to a jury that establishes guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

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The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by The United States Department of Justice Office of the Inspector General in Tucson, Arizona.

The prosecution is being handled by Holly Wiseman of the United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. and Roger L. Duncan, Assistant United States Attorney, Tucson, Arizona.

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